



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
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MAR - 8 2001

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File: SRC0002054187 Office: Texas Service Center Date:

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER: [Redacted]

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a privately held entity doing business as [REDACTED] a daily fee golf course. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a "PGA apprentice professional" for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the job offered qualifies as a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel argues that the offered position is a specialty occupation and the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation.

Counsel argues that this petition should be approved in view of the approval of other petitions for the firm in the past. This Service is not required to approve applications or petitions where eligibility has not been demonstrated. The cases cited by counsel have no precedential effect in this proceeding. See: 8 C.F.R. 103.3(c).

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(B), the petitioner shall submit the following with an H-1B petition involving a specialty occupation:

1. A certification from the Secretary of Labor that the petitioner has filed a labor condition application with the Secretary,

2. A statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application for the duration of the alien's authorized period of stay, and
3. Evidence that the alien qualifies to perform services in the specialty occupation.

The petitioner has provided a certified labor condition application and a statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or
4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary attained a Bachelor of Arts with a major in business administration from Queens College McCool School of Business in May 1999 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was a four year member and scholarship recipient of the [REDACTED] from 1995 to 1999. In April 2000, he passed the "Players Ability Test" of the Golf Professional Training Program which was administered by The Professional Golfers' Association of America. Accordingly, it is concluded that the beneficiary qualifies to perform the duties of the offered position.

The term "specialty occupation" is defined at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(ii) as:

an occupation which requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge in fields of human endeavor including, but not limited to, architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts, and which requires the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;
3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The duties of the offered position were listed as:

Management of the Regent Park Golf Academy consists of daily oversight of facility operations including scheduling of private instruction for LPGA and PGA Professionals, group clinics and junior camps, scheduling work shifts for all golf academy attendants, and golf range staff, merchandise of golf academy, coordinate golf club fitting sessions with students and instructors, and responsibility for teaching golf group clinics and junior camps.

In these proceedings, the duties of the position are dispositive and not the job title. The offered position combine duties of a general manager, recreation worker and athletic instructor or coach. The Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-2001 edition, at pages 50-51 finds no requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specialized area for employment as a general manager. Degrees in business and in liberal

arts fields appear equally welcome. In addition, certain personal qualities and participation in training programs are often considered as important as a specific formal academic background.

The Handbook at page 160 finds no requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specialized area for employment as a recreation worker. Some recreation workers hold high school diplomas. Others hold baccalaureate or higher degrees in a specialized area, while others hold baccalaureate degrees in various fields of study. The Handbook also indicates at page 179 that education and training requirements for instructors and coaches vary greatly by type of employer, area of expertise, and level of responsibilities. Some entry-level positions only require experience derived as a participant in the sport or activity, while others require substantial education or experience. Additionally, certification is highly desirable for those interested in becoming a fitness, aerobics, tennis, karate, golf, or other kind of instructor. Often one must be at least 18 years old and CPR certified. It is concluded that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the offered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of the regulations.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.